Attorney's Docket No. _34770.004_   *PATENT*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent application

of ___Woodrow T. Lewis_____

Inventor(s)

for ___METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING PARALLEL   MEDIA GATEWAY___

Title of invention

the specification of which is being transmitted herewith

OR

In re application of:

Serial No.: 0   /(to be assigned)Group No.:
Filed: . Examiner:
For:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant:

(1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application;

(2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; or

(3) Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last."

37 C.F.R. 1.97(b).

NOTE: "Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section." 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a).

"Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) each inventor named in the application;

(2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application." 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c).

NOTE: The "duty as described in § 1.56 will be met so long as the information in question was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b) - (d) and 1.98 before issuance of the patent." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13 -25 at 17.

WARNING: "No information disclosure statement may be filed in a provisional application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(b).

List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

(check sections forming a part of this statement: discard unused sections and number pages consecutively)

1. ☒ Preliminary Statements
2. ☒ FORM PTO–1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 086)
3. ☐ Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. ☐ Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5. ☒ Cumulative Patents or Publications
6. ☐ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement
7. ☐ Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items
    7A. ☐ EPO Search Report
    7B. ☐ English Language Version of EPO Search Report
8. ☐ Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents
9. ☐ Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)
10. ☒ Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

(complete the following, if appropriate)

Sections 1 , 2 , 5 , 10 , respectively, have been continued on ADDED PAGE(S).

NOTE: "Once the minimum requirements are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 37).

Docket No: 34770.004

In the Patent Application of:

Inventor: Woodrow T. Lewis

For: METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING PARALLEL MEDIA GATEWAY

Attorney: Thomas I. Rozsa

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT--37 CFR 1.97(b)

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Comes now the applicant, Woodrow T. Lewis, and pursuant to the guidelines promulgated by the Patent and Trademark Office published in Section 609 of MPEP and pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b), states that at the time of filing the application on his invention, he had performed a Patent Novelty Search and the following prior art was located during the search.

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1.   United States Patent No. 5,170,252 issued to Gear *et al.* on December 8, 1992 for "System And Method For Interconnecting And Mixing Multiple Audio And Video Data Streams Associated With Multiple Media Devices" (hereafter "*Gear*");

2.   United States Patent No. 5,608,447 issued to Farry *et al.* on March 4, 1997 for "Full Service Network" (hereafter "*Farry*");

3.   United States Patent No. 5,650,994 issued to Daley on July 22, 1997 for "Operation Support System For Service Creation And Network Provisioning For Video Dial Tone Networks" (hereafter "*Daley*");

4.   United States Patent No. 5,793,770 issued to St. John *et al.* on August 11, 1998 for "High-Performance Parallel Interface To Synchronous Optical Network Gateway" (hereafter "*St. John*");

5.   United States Patent No. 5,856,973 issued to Thompson on January 5, 1999 for "Data Multiplexing In MPEG Server To Decoder Systems" (hereafter "*Thompson*");

6.   United States Patent No. 5,917,537 issued to Lightfoot *et al.* on June 29, 1999 for "Level 1 Gateway For Video Dial Tone Networks" (hereafter "*Lightfoot*");

7.   United States Patent No. 5,925,100 issued to Drewry *et al.* on July 20, 1999 for "Client/Server System With Methods For Prefetching And Managing Semantic Objects Based On Object-Based Prefetch Primitive Present In Client's Executing Application" (hereafter *"Drewry"*);

8.   United States Patent No. 5,978,567 issued to Rebane *et al.* on November 2, 1999 for "System For Distribution Of Interactive Multimedia And Linear Programs By Enabling Program Webs Which Include Control Scripts To Define Presentation By Client Transceiver" (hereafter *"Rebane"*);

9.   United States Patent No. 6,073,160 issued to Grantham *et al.* on June 6, 2000 for "Document Communications Controller" (hereafter *"Grantham"*);

10.   United States Patent No. 6,085,235 issued to Clarke, Jr. *et al.* on July 4, 2000 for "System For Parsing Multimedia Data Into Separate Channels By Network Server In According To Type Of Data And Filtering Out Unwanted Packets By Client" (hereafter *"Clarke"*);

11.   United States Patent No. 6,128,653 issued to del Val *et al.* on October 3, 2000 for "Method And Apparatus For Communication Media Commands And Media Data Using The HTTP Protocol" (hereafter *"del Val"*); and

12.   United States Patent No. 6,151,634 issued to Glaser *et al.* on November 21, 2000 for "Audio-On-Demand Communication System" (hereafter "*Glaser*").

Gear discloses a system having a pipeline comprised of a multi-channel bi-directional video bus, multi-channel bi-directional audio bus, and a digital interprocessor communications bus. The pipeline is constructed on a motherboard printed circuit board that additionally contains a microprocessor that serves as the local area network controller for the interprocessor communications. A software driver interconnects the multiple video and audio devices in different configurations in response to user inputs to a host data processing system so that physical assignments of the device communications on the pipeline are transparent to the user. In this manner, a media device's video input and output can be optionally connected to any of the video pipes of the video bus. Similarly, the media device audio inputs and outputs can be optionally connected to any of the audio bus pipes. The pipeline is equipped with a number of ports where media controller (microprocessor) printed circuit cards can be connected, thus providing a convenient method for connecting media devices to the pipeline. The switching is accomplished through a pair of analog multiplexers whose connection options have been commanded by local microprocessor resident on the media device microprocessor control board. The local microprocessor receives instructions for the pipeline switch interconnections though the interprocessor serial communications bus.

Farry discloses a digital switching network which accommodates a full range of

broadband and narrowband digital technologies, including video, wideband data, narrowband data, video-on-demand and telephone channels in an integrated manner. A Level 1 gateway is utilized to control access to all information resources on the network. A broadband ATM switch, a digital cross-connect switch or other distribution mechanisms may be utilized to interconnect information sources and subscribers. Optical fiber connects information sources to the switching component of the network utilizing a standardized transport stream.

Daley discloses an operational support system which includes service creation ,service activation and service control functions to provide on-line service activation for video information providers (VIPs) and video information users (VIPs) on a video dial tone network. The operational support system processes the remote request by verifying the request data with internal subscriber databases, comparing the request with available network inventory and provisioning network resources by generation requests to network elements to establish the new service. The operational support system provides an open interface for VIPs to remotely provision network resources by remotely accessing and requesting changes in corresponding VIP profiles stored in the operational support system, in order to add/delete VIP subscribers, update event schedules, and/or to download billing and usage statistics. The operational support system also is adapted to perform network creation functions including initial network configuration, logical assignment of network elements, initializing network element systems, assignment of work orders for physical interconnections, and performance verification of installed systems.

St. John discloses a digital system for providing sending and receiving gateways for HIPPI interfaces. Multiplexers route the data and overhead signals to a framer module which allocates the data and overhead signals to a plurality of 9-byte words that are arranged in a selected protocol. Electronic logic circuitry formats data signals and overhead signals in a data frame that is suitable for transmission over a connecting fiber optic link. The formatted words are stored in a storage register for output through the gateway.

Thompson discloses a method and device for communicating private application data, along with audio data (e.g., MPEG-2 encoded audio data) and video data (e.g., MPEG-2 encoded video data), from a first location to a second location. The multiplexed packets form a packet stream which is communicated to the second location. The private application data is either stuffed into a header portion of packets of encoded audio or video data, or packetized and multiplexed with packets of encoded audio or video data.

Lightfoot discloses a Level 1 gateway in advanced digital networks for providing selective point-to-point communications between subscribers terminals and broadband server equipment operated by a plurality of independent information service providers. Routing through the network is controlled by functionality identified as a level 1 Gateway. The Level 1 Gateway is itself an interactive device in that subscribers can input information and receive display information from the Gateway to define or modify their own video dial tone service through the network. It generates menus of providers, either as a function of providers available through a particular portion of the network or

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in a customized fashion specified by individual subscribers. It will also perform a variety of functions including communications port management of transmissions of information between subscribers and severs, processing of bulling information and session management. The Level 1 Gateway further provide a PIN number functionality, e.g. to permit parents to limit which providers their children can access.

Drewry discloses a client/server system and methods for managing object availability through semantic object "load sets". By associating a particular "load set" with each object which might be requested by a client, improved object fetching and cache management is provided. Each "semantic object" is packaged in a "storable," which incorporates dependency lists indicating the context in which the object is to be used (i.e., with which dependent objects). With this approach, object availability in a distributed object environment (*e.g.*, the Internet) is improved. The related methods involve the steps for managing object fetching and discarding on a per object basis, not on a per page basis.

Rebane discloses a system and method for delivering multimedia interactive and linear programming on a large-scale network. The methods are for efficiently using system resources such as bandwidth, storage and processing time to maintain an optimally-performing system that results in minimal latency for the end-user's interaction with the system. The stored program material is segmented into portions and each program segment is transmitted to the receiving system component in less than real-time on an as-needed basis. The system is designed to be hierarchical in nature in order to

avoid the huge processing and storage requirements of a system utilizing centralized

storage and system control.

Grantham discloses a method and apparatus for providing a general-purpose,

multifunction, individually addressable, full-bandwidth bi-directional communication

device with built-in Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) capabilities

that connects a home or business user with ATM and other Switched broadband digital

networks in a convenient, adaptable, extensible manner at reasonable cost. The device

can be used in a heterogeneous environment and with different types of networks and

protocols. The full-bandwidth bi-directional communication and built-in AAA

capabilities of the device distinguish it from other "set-top boxes." The device supports a

Document Services Architecture and, in particular, supports agent-based communications

to ensure well-behaved communications and fair allocation of network resources among

users.

Clarke discloses a system for parsing multimedia data into separate channels by

network servers connected to a network. The server process examines the information

packets sent from the service provider to determine zero or more of the categories that

describe a content of the information packet and labels the information packets with the

channel identifier associated with the respective categories prior to sending the

information packets over the network. The server/control function executes a process

which parses the information content sent from the service provider onto two or more

channels and then broadcasts those channels over the network to a plurality of client computers.

del Val discloses a method for employing a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP protocol) for transmitting streamed digital media data from a server which is configured for coupling to a client computer via a computer network. The method includes receiving at the server form the client an HTTP POST request. The POST request requests a first portion of the digital media data and includes a request header and a request entity-body. The request entity body includes a media command for causing the first portion of the digital media data to be sent from the server to the client. The method further includes sending an HTTP response to the client from the server. The HTTP response includes a response header and a response entity body. The response entity body includes at least a portion of the first portion of the digital media data.
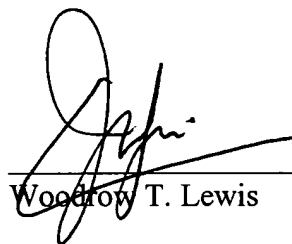
Glaser discloses an audio-on-demand communication system providing realtime playback of audio data transferred via telephone lines or other communication links. One or more audio servers include memory banks which store compressed audio data. High quality audio data compressed according to lossless compression techniques is transmitted together with normal quality audio data. Alternatively, metadata, or extra data, such as text, captions still images, etc., can also be transmitted with audio data and is simultaneously displayed with corresponding audio data. Furthermore, servers and subscriber PCs are dynamically allocated based upon geographic location to provide the highest possible quality in the communication link. At the request of a user at a

subscriber PC, an audio server transmits the compressed audio data over the

communication link to the subscriber PC. The subscriber PC receives and decompresses

the transmitted audio data in less than real-time using only the processing power of the

CPU within the subscriber PC. The audio-on-demand system provides a table of contents

indicating significant divisions in the audio clip to be played and allows the user

immediate access to audio data at the listed divisions.

Each of the above-referenced patents is discussed in the background of the

invention section of the Patent Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/23/01

Woodrow T. Lewis

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1449A/PTO Rev. 10/95	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Complete if Known	
LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	
		Filing Date	
		First Named Inventor	Woodrow T. Lewis
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet 1 of 1		Attorney Docket Number	34770.004

JC872 U.S. PTO 09/844572 04/25/01

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	U.S. Patent Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		5,170,252		Gear et al.	12-8-92	
		5,608,447		Farry et al.	03-04-97	
		5,650,994		Daley	07-22-97	
		5,793,770		St. John et al.	08-11-98	
		5,856,973		Thompson	01-05-99	
		5,917,537		Lightfoot et al.	06-29-99	
		5,925,100		Drewry et al.	07-20-99	
		5,978,567		Rebane et al.	11-02-99	
		6,073,160		Grantham et al.	06-06-00	
		6,085,235		Clarke, Jr. et al	07-04-00	
		6,128,653		del Val et al.	10-03-00	
		6,151,634		Glaser et al.	11-21-00	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Office[3]	Number[4]	Kind Code[5] (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] Unique citation designation number. [2] See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. [3] Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. [6] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.